

Port entry facilities for large size tankers

975. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to port constraints for large size crude and product tankers berthing at ports is causing serious problems; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to provide adequate and deeper draft for large size tankers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The ports are generally equipped to handle large size crude and product tankers. However, improvement of the infrastructure of major ports in terms of handling large size crude and product tankers and other facilities in the country is an ongoing process. Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) formulated by the Department of Shipping a total number of 276 projects in the major ports involving development of berths, deepening of channels, equipment upgradation and modernization, rail and road connectivity and other associated projects are planned to be implemented by 2011-12.

Vessels for crude oil and petroleum

976. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether our country does not have adequate vessels to transport crude oil and petroleum products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken by the Central Government to acquire more vessels so that our oil companies do not have to depend upon foreign vessels for transportation of crude oil and products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Shipping is a truly international business therefore the transportation of Petroleum